



CAPITOL UPDATE

OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Penny Bernard Schaber
Serving the heart of Appleton



Friends,

It is an honor to continue to serve as your Representative in the State Assembly. I send out "capitol updates" once every month to let you know about current legislation.

On June 29th Governor Doyle signed the 2009-2011 state budget into law. For the first time since 1977 the budget was passed on time which is very beneficial for Wisconsin. Because it was passed on time we will receive \$88 million in federal funding which will be used for transportation and healthcare. We made a record \$3 billion in spending cuts to help balance the budget. The budget includes a 5% across-the-board reductions for state agencies, the cancellation of scheduled raises for state workers, employee furloughs, and lay offs of up to 1500 state employees.

Two of the Assembly's goals during the budget process were to make cuts and guarantee openness. The state will save \$224 million over the next two years thanks to cutbacks made by the Assembly. Members of the State Assembly are returning 6% from our operating budget. In order to save the state money I worked to freeze legislators' salaries and will give back 16 days worth of pay over the next two years. We ensured that the entire budget process was an open process by broadcasting it on Wisconsin Eye for the first time in history. All budget proceedings can still be viewed at www.wisconsineye.org. I took your phone calls, e-mails, and letters seriously. I received 665 contacts from constituents regarding the budget. I took all your views into consideration before voting.


Through the entire process I made sure to think about the effect this budget would have on Wisconsin families. Kimberly Clark contacted my office two months ago, concerned about the loss of research and development tax credits. I worked with the budget process to ensure their tax credits stayed in, keeping those good paying jobs in the Fox Valley. I worked to remove some of the unpopular provisions from the budget. The provision that made changes to joint and several liability law was very unpopular among my constituents and I was proud to help remove this provision from the budget.

One thing I promised to do while in the State Legislature is work with both Democrats and Republicans. Throughout my short term here I have authored numerous pieces of legislation. I am very proud that every piece of legislation I have authored has had bipartisan support. Two pieces of legislation I would like to draw attention to are the Fake Check Scam Protection Act and the Police Escort Bill.

I authored the Check Scam Protection Act. Companies send out unsolicited checks, often to seniors and businesses, which bind the endorser to an unwanted costly contract or loan. These deceiving contracts withdraw money from the victim's bank account after the check is signed and deposited. On average, victims lose \$3,000 to \$4,000. The Check Scam Protection Act will prohibit the practice of sending out seemingly normal checks that commit people or businesses to a contract they did not intend to sign up for. More than one-third of the Wisconsin Legislature co-sponsored the bill.

I also authored the Police Escort Bill which will allow police vehicles to go through red lights when escorting vehicles. The Sheriff's requested this legislation to be able to pass safely through red lights and stop signs while escorting vehicles across the state. An example of such an event is when the Sheriff's department escorts opposing NFL teams from the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel to Lambeau Field. This is just one example of how the bill will benefit high profile events that serve as an economic boost to Wisconsin. The Police Escort Bill, AB 308, has bipartisan support and the endorsement of the Green Bay Packers, Outagamie County Sheriff's Department, Brown County Sheriff's Department, Green Bay Police Department and the Appleton Police Department. The Police Escort Bill passed in the Assembly unanimously and is currently awaiting a vote in the Senate.

I continue to work on the Electronic Waste Recycling Bill as well as working with the Transportation Committee for the Fox Cities Regional Transit Authority. I am working with the Mayor's office and local Representatives from both parties to address this important issue. We will keep you informed on our progress.



Penny Bernard Schaber
57th Assembly District

Events

Do you have an event you would like Penny to attend in Appleton? If so please contact the office at 608-266-3070 or email rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov

Penny's Pointer

Accountability and transparency in our government are very important to me and should be a goal. We constantly strive to increase our transparency. In that effort, we have introduced www.recovery.gov to account for every dollar spent from the federal stimulus package here in Wisconsin. Please visit the site to see where the money is being spent.